

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



J. BRENDAN SHARKEY
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

Testimony for HR 14- *RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING
THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA*

Government Administration and Elections Committee Public Hearing
February 25, 2011

Representative Morin, Senator Slossberg, Representative Hwang, Senator McLachlan, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I want to thank you for raising and hearing House Resolution 14 "Resolution Commemorating the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic of China, also known as Taiwan".

As you know, in 2011, Taiwan is celebrating its 100th year as a democratic republic, the first and oldest democratic republic in Asia. In much the same way as the United States did so in the late 1700's, the Republic of China ended over 2,000 years of imperial rule when it was formed in 1911. Since that time, Taiwan has served as a beacon of democracy for Asia and the rest of the world.

It is particularly fitting that the General Assembly resolve to honor Taiwan's centennial. In 1986, the State of Connecticut officially embraced Taiwan as its sister state, and our state has fostered a strong relationship with the people of Taiwan ever since. The Taiwanese Consulate, based in New York City, maintains an ongoing relationship with our state officials to foster cultural exchange between our governments as well as to promote trade opportunities among our business leaders.

On a later date this session, Ambassador Andrew Kao from the Taiwan Consulate will be visiting Hartford to further our state's close relationship with the Republic of China. The Capitol will fly the Taiwanese national flag alongside our own, and a welcoming reception with the governor and legislature is planned. This resolution by the General Assembly will mark that special day and publicly affirm our commitment to a relationship that promises to grow in the years ahead.

I thank the Committee for its positive consideration and approval of this important bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Sharkey".

J. Brendan Sharkey
House Majority Leader